



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

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Navajo President Shelly Signs Agreement with Gallup and McKinley County for Detox Center



President Ben Shelly (center) simultaneously signs the Memorandum of Agreement with McKinley County Commissioner Genevieve Jackson (left center) and Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney (right center). The agreement allows the Navajo Nation to operate the Gallup Detox and treatment aftercare center.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed an agreement Thursday morning making way for the Navajo Nation to operate the Gallup Detox center.

“Today, we come together as three governments to partner and provide a basic service for people who walk that lonely road of alcohol abuse and addiction,” President Shelly said before he signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the city of Gallup and McKinley county.

The MOA created a basic structure to fund the detox and aftercare treatment facility and gave the Navajo Nation the authority to operate the program. Plans call for the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health to oversee the operation.

Gallup and the Navajo Nation also agreed to provide \$670,000 to improve the property to meet any codes and standards by Jan. 1. The Navajo Nation will provide \$350,000 of the funding while Gallup will provide \$320,000.

In addition, the MOA also stated that Gallup and McKinley County would use 10 percent of revenues from the alcohol excise tax to go toward funding the detox facility on an annual basis.

McKinley County Commissioner Genevieve Jackson signed the agreement on behalf of McKinley County and Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney signed on behalf of Gallup.

"We're really grateful that the three agencies came together to address this matter because it is our responsibility," Commissioner Jackson said.

Mayor McKinney expressed his gratitude for the agreement.

"This is a great venture and I am so happy and proud to be a part of this," Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney said.

The agreement comes after the Na Nizhoozhi Center Inc. closed its operations in June. Since then the three governments have been formulating an agreement to keep the detox and treatment center open.

"We are going to work together to help people escape the grips of alcoholism and alcohol abuse, so people may make their lives better for themselves and their families," President Shelly said. "Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to make this possible."

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